



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349
Ref:027-05
January 12, 2005

TO: Governor's Office, Attn: Todd O'Hair, PO Box 200801, Helena, 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, PO Box 201704, Helena, 59620-1704
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Planning, Prevention & Assistance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
*Dept. of Environmental Quality, Permitting Compliance, PO Box 200901, Helena, 59620-0901
Tom McDonald, Div Admin, CSKT Natural Resources, PO Box 278, Pablo, 59855
DNRC, PO Box 201601, Helena, 59620-1601; Kalispell: Jon Dahlberg*
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Director's Office: Reg Peterson; Parks: Walt Timmerman, Allan Kuser; Legal Unit: Brandi Fisher
*SHPO, PO Box 201202, Helena, 59620-1202
*Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, 59620-1800 (e-mailed)
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, 59624
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, PO Box 728, Libby, 59923
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, 59103
Joe Gutkoski, President, Montana River Action Network, 304 N 18th Ave., Bozeman, 59715
Rep. Bernie Olson, 161 Lakeside Blvd., Lakeside, 59922
Rep. William Jones, 567 E Village Dr, Bigfork, 59911-6152
Sen. Bob Keenan, Box 697, Bigfork, 59911-0697
Flathead County Commissioners, 800 S Main Street, Kalispell, 59901
Lake County Commissioners, 106 Fourth Avenue E, Polson, 59860
Lake County Planning Dept., 106 Fourth Avenue E, Polson, 59860
Flathead County Library, 247 First Avenue E, Kalispell, 59901
Flathead County Library, 521 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, 59911
Interested Parties

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Region One, has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Woods Bay Fishing Access Site (FAS) for the purposes of improving existing roads, replacing existing boat ramp, installing riprap, and installing a floating dock.

During the 30-day public comment period, there were two comments received, with concerns addressed in both the decision document and the final EA. A copy of the decision document is enclosed. Copies of the final EA are available by calling Nancy Ivy at 751-4579. Please direct your questions or comments to Regional Parks Manager Marty Watkins, FWP, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901, or e-mail mawatkins@state.mt.us.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams
Acting Regional Supervisor

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Enclosure

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Site Protection at Woods Bay Fishing Access Site
Environmental Assessment**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 1
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901**

January 12, 2005

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes a maintenance project at Woods Bay Fishing Access Site.

The proposed action is to complete the following:

1. Widen and gravel about 200 linear yards of existing roads and add curbing to about 75 feet of roadway along the lakeshore.
2. Replace existing boat ramp with a sixteen-foot-wide concrete ramp.
3. Install about 100 feet of riprap.
4. Repair an existing breakwater.
5. Install a gate at the entrance to the site.
6. If funding allows, install a floating dock.

Public Comment:

One letter with comments and one verbal comment were received. The concerns in the letter were as follows:

1. The EA does not fully address the noise during construction.

FWP recognizes that there will be increases in traffic and noise during the construction period. While these may be annoying, the impacts will be temporary in nature. Construction will be done during business hours to reduce impacts on neighbors, but there is no means to eliminate those impacts.

2. The EA does not evaluate the effect of construction traffic on the county roads leading up to the site.

The vehicles used by the contractor should not be heavy enough to impact roads built to county standards. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to ensure damage does not occur due to impacts from his equipment.

3. Concerns that the additions to the groin will increase beach erosion on adjoining properties.

The expertise of a hydrologist will be used to ensure that rebuilding the groin does not increase erosion on adjacent property.

4. Trespass, including excessive party noise and motor recreational vehicles, on FWP property such as trails and steep hillsides. The letter recommended that the site be closed after dark and law enforcement be required to patrol the area.

While enforcement issues are outside the scope of this assessment, the neighbor's concerns are recognized as valid. A gate has been added to this project, which will enable the site to be closed at night. A volunteer will have to be found who is willing to do this. Signing at the site will also be checked to ensure that it states the site is for day use only, and enforcement will be notified about the late night issues.

5. A high potential for fire in the undeveloped area of the FWP property.

Forestry issues are outside the scope of this environmental assessment. However, a forest assessment and programmatic environmental assessment was done for all state parks and fishing access sites in 2003. At Woods Bay the recommendation was that a pre-commercial thin of about ten acres of saplings on the west half be done within five years. FWP has begun implementation of the forestry recommendations. Woods Bay will be done in order of priority.

Verbal comment:

The verbal comment received was regarding concerns about trespass, late night parties, and noise. Due to these concerns a gate has been added to this project, which will enable the site to be closed at night. A volunteer will have to be found who is willing to do this. Signing at the site will also be checked to ensure that it states that site is for day use only, and enforcement will be notified about the late night issues.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA), I find Alternative B, to widen and gravel roads, replace concrete ramp, install riprap along shoreline, rebuild breakwater, install a gate, and install a dock, if financially feasible, to be the preferred alternative. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final environmental assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian, Kalispell, MT 59901. Please direct requests and questions to:

Marty Watkins, Regional Parks Manager
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
mawatkins@mt.gov

In accordance with FWP policy, an appeal may be made by any person who has either commented in writing to the department on the proposed project, or who has registered or commented orally at a public meeting held by the department on the proposed project, or who can provide new evidence that would otherwise change the proposed plan. An appeal must be submitted to the Director of FWP in writing and must be postmarked or received within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision making process, and how the department can provide relief. The appeal should be mailed to: Director, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620.

Jim Williams
Acting Regional Supervisor

Date